

REMARKS

Drawing Objections

Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Applicant respectfully traverses the objection.

37 CFR 1.83(a) states the following:

The drawing in a nonprovisional application must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. However, conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box).

Applicant is including herewith a proposed drawing correction in which the language in the Specification is included in Figure 1. Proposed corrections are shown in red.

Applicant believes the drawings as filed as well as the proposed drawing correction comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a).

For example, Examiner has stated that “multiple optical fibers” must be shown in the Drawings. This feature is shown in Figure 1 as optical cable 11. The Specification at page 3, line 17 indicates that optical cable 11 includes one, two or more optical fibers.

Examiner has stated that “digital data transmission” and “analog data transmission” must be shown in the Drawings. These features, however, are shown in Figure 1 as optical cable 11. The Specification at page 4, lines 1

through 3 indicates that digital data transmission is used or analog data transmission is used within optical cable 11.

Examiner has stated that “universal serial bus (USB), USB 2, Firewire 800, Ethernet, Enterprise Systems Connection, Infiniband, a proprietary system interconnection,” must be shown in the Drawings. These features, however, are shown in Figure 1 as integrated electrical connector 101 and integrated electrical connector 102. The Specification at page 4, lines 7 through 12 indicates that integrated electrical connector 101 and integrated electrical connector 102 are, for example, proprietary electrical connectors or are compatible with a connector standard such as universal serial bus (USB), USB 2, IEEE 1394 (Firewire), Firewire 800, Ethernet, Enterprise Systems Connection (ESCON), Infiniband, a proprietary system interconnection, or another connector standard.

Examiner has stated that “synchronous optical network protocol”, “optical fibre channel protocol” and Ethernet protocol” must be shown in the Drawings. These features, however, are shown in Figure 1 as optical cable 11. The Specification at page 4, lines 5 through 7, indicates that synchronous optical network (Sonet), optical fibre channel, Ethernet, or another optical protocol is used for propagating signals within optical cable 11.

Claim Rejections

Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by US 2002/0159725A1 (Bucklen). Applicant has amended the independent claims to more fully emphasize distinctive features of the

invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to the claims as amended.

Applicant discussed below each of the independent claims extant in the case. On the basis of the allowability of the independent claims, Applicant believes all the claims extant in the case are allowable.

Independent Claim 1

Independent claim 1 sets out a connection cable comprising an integrated electrical connector permanently fixed to an optical cable. Data transmission through the optical cable uses a protocol that is different than a protocol used for data transmission between the integrated electrical connector and the matching electrical connector. This is not disclosed or suggested by Bucklen.

In Bucklen, electrical signals are directly translated into optical signals and optical signals are directly translated into electrical signals. See Figure 1 of Bucklen. There is no change in protocol between electrical signals and optical signals. There is no circuitry included in Bucklen that would be able to make such a protocol change. Bucklen merely discloses an electrically-terminated, optically-coupled communications cable. Nothing in Bucklen discloses or suggests data transmission through an optical cable using a protocol that is different than a protocol used for data transmission between an integrated electrical connector and a matching electrical connector, as in claim 1 of the present case.

Independent Claim 8

Independent claim 8 sets out a method for constructing a connection cable in which an integrated electrical connector is permanently fixed to an optical cable. Data transmission through the optical cable uses a protocol that is different than a protocol used for data transmission between the integrated electrical connector and the matching electrical connector. This is not disclosed or suggested by Bucklen.

As discussed above, in Bucklen, electrical signals are directly translated into optical signals and optical signals are directly translated into electrical signals. See Figure 1 of Bucklen. There is no change in protocol between electrical signals and optical signals. There is no circuitry included in Bucklen that would be able to make such a protocol change. Bucklen merely discloses an electrically-terminated, optically-coupled communications cable. Nothing in Bucklen discloses or suggests data transmission through an optical cable using a protocol that is different than a protocol used for data transmission between an integrated electrical connector and a matching electrical connector, as in claim 8 of the present case.

Independent Claim 15

Independent claim 15 sets out a method for connecting two target devices that comprises plugging a first integrated electrical connector permanently affixed to an optical cable into a matching electrical connector of a first target device, and comprises plugging a second integrated electrical connector

permanently affixed to the optical cable into a matching electrical connector of a second target device. Data transmission through the optical cable uses a protocol that is different than a protocol used for data transmission between the integrated electrical connector and the matching electrical connector. This is not disclosed or suggested by Bucklen.

As discussed above, in Bucklen, electrical signals are directly translated into optical signals and optical signals are directly translated into electrical signals. See Figure 1 of Bucklen. There is no change in protocol between electrical signals and optical signals. There is no circuitry included in Bucklen that would be able to make such a protocol change. Bucklen merely discloses an electrically-terminated, optically-coupled communications cable. Nothing in Bucklen discloses or suggests data transmission through an optical cable using a protocol that is different than a protocol used for data transmission between an integrated electrical connector and a matching electrical connector, as in claim 15 of the present case.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this Amendment has placed the present application in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LAURENCE RAY MCCOLLOCH
BRENTON ARTHUR BAUGH

By 
Douglas L. Weller
Reg. No. 30,506

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Santa Clara, California
(408) 985-0642